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Cuckfield Urban District Council

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1954

BY

WILLIAM B. STOTT,

L.R.C.P. & S. (EDIN.), D.P.H. (CAMB.)

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CHARLES CLARKE (HAYWARDS HEATH) LTD.

1955

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URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CUCKFIELD

REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Chairman and Members of the Cuckfield Urban District Council.

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1954.

The Crude Death Rate is 16.60, and this figure, when adjusted, gives a Corrected Death Rate of 11.45, which compares with 11.3 for England and Wales.

The Infant Mortality Rate is 29.94, as compared with 25.5 for the country as a whole and with 24.75 for 1953.

The Death Rate for tuberculosis is 0.18, as compared with 0.18 for England and Wales.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

On page 10 will be found details of the immunisation position which summarised is as follows:—

0-5—Percentage of children immunised	..	..	89
5-15—Percentage of children immunised	..	..	97
0-15—Percentage of children immunised	..	..	95

It is not possible to obtain a much higher percentage in the 0-5 years group, for immunisation is not commenced until the child is three months old, and the full course of combined whooping cough and diphtheria immunisation takes three months.

Great care is taken to ensure that the parents of every child born in the district or entering from another district are informed fully of the advantages of immunisation, first by letter and later, if necessary, by personal approach. The Health Visitors and District Nurses have been very helpful in that they have interviewed all parents who have not accepted by the first approach, and the results achieved have been excellent, as shown by the figures above. A card is made out for every child in the district and full particulars are entered thereon. As an additional check a book is kept in which is recorded the names of every child born in the district with details of immunisation, and it is thus possible to see at a glance the position from month to month.

The number of parents who refuse immunisation is very few—about 1 per cent.—but there are a few who, though not against it and who say they will have it done, do not bother to take their children to the doctor's surgery or to the clinic. It is to these parents that I address myself through the good services of the local press, and ask them to have their children immunised without delay, as if the diphtheria bacillus gains entry into a school or household it will then be too late to immunise, and it will be the non-immunised children who will suffer.

For the past two and a half years the procedure adopted in this district is to give a combined vaccine of diphtheria and whooping cough. Parents are given the option of taking their children to their own doctor or to special clinics which are held throughout the district and at which Dr. H. L. Duke, Deputy Medical Officer of Health, attends. The great majority of parents accept the combined immunisation, but if only immunisation against diphtheria is sought this is done at a later date, usually about the eighth or ninth month. Early immunisation against whooping cough is recommended because the first year of life is the most dangerous for this disease. The material used for the combined immunisation is Parke Davis W.D.P., as it has the advantage of not containing alum, which is reputed to increase the risk of post-inoculation poliomyelitis when that disease is prevalent in the district. Another advantage is that it is given subcutaneously as against intramuscularly and so is less likely to cause paralysis. The injections are given at monthly intervals followed by a Schick test three months after the final injection, with of course a further injection if the test is positive. For immunisation against diphtheria alone P.T.A.P. is employed, as this also is reputed to be less liable to cause paralysis.

In order to keep up the immunity a reinforcing injection of P.T.A.P. (Diphtheria Prophylactic) is given at the age of five years and at 10-11 years the child is re-tested and receives a further injection if the immunity has waned. Last year 170 children were tested in the latter category and only nine were found to have lost their immunity—a percentage of 5—showing that the procedure carried out in this district should be effective in preventing the occurrence of diphtheria.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

One hundred and eight cases of infectious disease were notified as compared with 586 in 1953, but the latter figure included 474 cases of measles, a disease which tends to attack the school population every second year.

HEALTH EDUCATION

A full account was given in my last year's Annual Report of a comprehensive course on "Hygiene and the Health Services" arranged by the Headmaster of the County Secondary School for children in their last year at school. Another course was held during the year, and included visits of inspection to the Mid-Sussex Water Works, a milk dairy and a dairy farm. The scheme should prove of great benefit to the children, and it is hoped they will put into practise what they have been taught.

TUBERCULOSIS

On page 13 will be found particulars of Tuberculosis during the past twelve years, from which the trend of the disease can be seen. As regards notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis these have fluctuated from year to year with a tendency to an increase during the last five years, probably due to the examination of more contacts and the increasing use of X-rays for diagnostic purposes.

The picture is quite different when one examines the mortality figures. From 1943 to 1948 deaths from pulmonary tuberculosis were twenty-five; from 1949 to 1954 there were only eleven—a striking reduction.

The reasons for the decrease in mortality are several and include the following:—

- (1) Notification of the disease at an earlier stage than formerly, due to more people realising that if seen and treated early they will be more likely to recover.

- (2) More use of X-rays by General Practitioners as an aid to diagnosis. (It is generally agreed that X-rays are superior to a clinical examination in finding an early case).
- (3) Better knowledge among the public of the right foods to buy, resulting in an improvement in nutrition. There can be no doubt that the educational affect of canteen meals for schoolchildren and the classes for senior girls at school on Domestic Science have played a part in this better nutrition.
- (4) It is well known that better housing is also an important factor in reducing the incidence of tuberculosis; and this Council's policy in dealing energetically with unfit houses and giving priority in rehousing of families with a case of tuberculosis, has no doubt played a part in the reduction of the disease in this district. I will take this opportunity to stress the danger to contacts in the family when a case occurs and where the accommodation in the home is inadequate.
- (5) Examination of close contacts by the Chest Physician and the testing and vaccination of the children with B.C.G.
- (6) The Mass Radiography Unit has been available at Haywards Heath during the past few years for anyone who wished to be examined and this has brought to light a number of early cases.
- (7) The testing and vaccination of senior schoolchildren with B.C.G. has now been sanctioned by the Ministry of Health, and this should have the effect in time of still further reducing the incidence of tuberculosis.
- (8) Treatment by Streptomycin and other new drugs.

It will be observed that there were no deaths in the period from non-pulmonary tuberculosis, in fact the last death from this cause was in 1942.

With the exception of 1950, when there were ten cases notified—seven being in respect of cases occurring in previous years, but not notified then—the incidence of this disease has been gradually declining. There is no doubt that one of the main reasons is because the majority of the milk consumed in this district is either pasteurised or Tuberculin Tested, and has been such for several years. In 1936 only 12 per cent. of all milk was of this kind, but by 1947 it had reached 70 per cent., and at the present time practically no ordinary milk is sold at all.

MASS RADIOGRAPHY SURVEY

By arrangement with Dr. B. G. Rigden, Medical Director, East Sussex Mass Radiography Unit, a Survey was carried out in Haywards Heath in the spring of 1954. Examination was open to anyone living in this district, and posters and leaflets giving particulars of the times for attendance were distributed. The total attending was 1,019 persons, and one was found to have active pulmonary tuberculosis and eighteen inactive pulmonary tuberculosis. These surveys not only bring to light early and generally unsuspected cases of pulmonary tuberculosis, but have a health education value in drawing the attention of the public to the facilities available for early diagnosis.

WATER SUPPLY

(i) The water for the whole of the Urban District is supplied by the Mid-Sussex Joint Water Board. This was satisfactory in quality and quantity.

Monthly samples were taken for bacteriological analysis, and all were reported as being satisfactory.

- (ii) The Board carried out monthly bacteriological examination of the raw water, and all were satisfactory. The water was chlorinated after filtration.
- (iii) The supply is not liable to plumbo-solvent action.
- (iv) There was no evidence of the supply being contaminated.
- (v) Every house in the district is provided with a piped supply direct to the house.

My thanks are due to Mr. R. Staynes, Senior Sanitary Inspector, for his help and co-operation and for the particulars supplied for this Report, and to the other members of the Staff, and in particular to Miss Everson, my Secretary.

I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my appreciation of the consideration, support and assistance I have received from the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

W. B. STOTT,
Medical Officer of Health.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	..	WILLIAM B. STOTT, L.R.C.P. & S. (EDIN.), D.P.H. (CAMB.)
<i>Deputy Medical Officer of Health</i>		H. L. DUKE, O.B.E., M.D., SC.D. (CAMB.), D.T.M. AND HY.
<i>Senior Sanitary Inspector</i>	..	R. STAYNES, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I. <i>Certified Meat Inspector</i>
<i>Additional Sanitary Inspector</i>	..	R. J. WEBB, M.S.I.A., M.R.S.I. <i>Certified Meat Inspector</i>
<i>Clerks to the M.O.H.</i>	.. ..	Miss G. L. EVERSON Miss J. M. LEWRY
<i>Clerk to the S.S.I.</i>	.. ..	Miss G. J. SHUTTLEWOOD

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Summary of Statistics for the years:

	1952	1953	1954
Area of District in Acres ..	3,912	3,912	3,912
Population estimated to middle of year	16,940	17,010	16,980
Rateable Value	£159,864	£165,434	£169,680
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£630 11s. 11d.	£642 7s. 4d.	£657 15s. 1d.
Density of Population (persons per acre)	4.33	4.35	4.34
Number of Houses	4,773	4,813	4,932
Birth Rate per 1,000 popula- tion	12.04	11.88	9.84
Death Rate per 1,000 popula- tion	11.45	16.11	16.60
Infant Mortality Rate ..	4.90	24.75	29.94

CAUSES OF DEATH IN CUCKFIELD URBAN DISTRICT

							<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
1.	Tuberculosis, respiratory	..	..	..	..	..	2	1
2.	Tuberculosis, other	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
3.	Syphilitic disease	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
4.	Diphtheria	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
5.	Whooping Cough	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
6.	Meningococcal infections	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
7.	Acute poliomyelitis	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
8.	Measles	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	..	..	..	..	..	3	4
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	..	..	..	..	..	9	2
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	..	..	..	..	..	—	5
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	..	..	..	..	..	—	2
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	..	..	..	..	..	7	17
15.	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
16.	Diabetes	..	..	..	..	..	—	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	..	..	..	..	..	13	27
18.	Coronary disease, angina	..	..	..	..	..	15	25
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	..	..	..	..	..	2	5
20.	Other heart disease	..	..	..	..	..	13	31
21.	Other circulatory disease	..	..	..	..	..	8	4
22.	Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
23.	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	9	13
24.	Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	..	3	5
25.	Other diseases of respiratory systems	..	..	..	..	..	6	2
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	..	..	..	..	..	3	1
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	..	..	..	..	..	—	2
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	..	..	..	..	..	3	—
30.	Pregnancy, childbirth abortion	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
31.	Congenital malformations	..	..	..	..	..	3	—
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	..	..	..	..	..	5	16
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	..	..	..	..	..	1	—
34.	All other accidents	..	..	..	..	..	3	1
35.	Suicide	..	..	..	..	..	2	2
36.	Homicide and operations of war	..	..	..	..	..	—	—
Totals							114	168

BIRTHS AND DEATHS

Births and Birth Rate

The following table shows the Births registered for the year 1954:—

			<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>		<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	..	..	74	..	87	..	161
Illegitimate	..	..	3	..	3	..	6
			<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>
Totals	..		77	..	90	..	167
			<hr/>		<hr/>		<hr/>

This gives a rate of 9.84 per 1,000 population.

The corrected Birth Rate is 11.11.

			<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>		<i>Total</i>
Total Stillbirths	..		5	..	2	..	7
Legitimate	..		4	..	2	..	6
Illegitimate	..		1	..	—	..	1

Deaths and Death Rate

The following table shows the Deaths registered for the year 1954:—

			<i>Male</i>		<i>Female</i>		<i>Total</i>
	114	..	168	..	282		

This gives a mortality rate of 16.60 per 1,000 population.

The corrected Death Rate is 11.45.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

Laboratory Facilities

All milk and water samples, infectious disease and food poisoning specimens are sent to the Public Health Laboratory, Brighton. Medical practitioners send the specimens direct to the Laboratory, and they receive the report by telephone, a copy of such report being sent to this office.

My thanks are due to Dr. J. E. Jameson, Medical Director, for his informative reports and helpful advice on many occasions.

Ambulance Facilities

Cases of infectious diseases are now removed by one of the two British Red Cross Society's ambulances stationed at Lavender's Garage, Sussex Road, Haywards Heath.

Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases

Twenty-six beds are available at the Mid-Sussex Isolation Hospital for the treatment of cases of infectious disease, twelve of these beds are in a cubicle block and the other fourteen in a block consisting of two main wards and side wards.

A table on page 15 gives particulars of admissions during the year.

Smallpox

The South-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board state that cases of smallpox occurring in this district should be sent to the River Hospitals (Long Reach), Dartford, Kent.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

Infant Welfare Centres:

Cuckfield	.. ..	Congregational Church Hall	2nd and 4th Friday Dr. on 2nd Friday
Franklands Village	..	The Institute (Weighing Session only)	2nd Wednesday
Haywards Heath	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic, Oaklands, Haywards Heath	Every Friday Dr. 2nd and 4th Friday
Bentswood	.. ..	Presentation Church Hall, New England Road, Haywards Heath	1st and 3rd Monday Dr. on 1st Monday
Lindfield	.. ..	The Tiger, High Street	1st Monday Dr. each session

Clinics:

Diphtheria Immunisation	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic, Oaklands, Haywards Heath	Every Monday 10 a.m. to 12 noon
Chest	.. ..	Haywards Heath Hospital, Haywards Heath	Every Thursday
Orthopaedic	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic, Mill Road, Burgess Hill	Tuesday 9 a.m.-12.30 p.m. Friday 9 a.m.-12.30 p.m. Dr. usually attends 3rd and/or 4th Wednesday at 10.30 a.m. (by appointment)
Speech Therapy	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic, Oaklands, Haywards Heath	Wednesday 9 a.m. Friday 9 a.m. (by appointment)
Eye Refractions (Schoolchildren)	..	Haywards Heath Hospital Cuckfield Hospital	By appointment
Minor Ailments	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic, Oaklands, Haywards Heath	Tuesdays and Fridays, 9-10 a.m.
Child Guidance	..	East Grinstead: Moat Road Lewes: Castlegate House Hove: 33 Clarendon Villas	Every Friday 10 a.m. (by appointment) Every Wednesday 10 a.m. (by appointment) Tuesday 10 a.m. Thursday 2 p.m. By appointment
Dental	.. ..	E.S.C.C. Clinic, Oaklands, Haywards Heath	
School Clinic	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic, Oaklands, Haywards Heath	Dr. Sweeney (by appointment)
*Family Planning	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic, Oaklands, Haywards Heath	2nd and 4th Wednesday 2 p.m. Dr. each session (by appointment)

*Sub-Fertility	..	E.S.C.C. Clinic, Oaklands, Haywards Heath	1st Wednesday 2 p.m. Dr. each session (by appointment)
Venereal Diseases	..	Facilities available at	Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton
Men	.. ..	Monday	.. 4.30 p.m.
		Wednesday	.. 9.30 a.m.
		Thursday	.. 1.30 p.m.
Women and Children		Tuesday	.. 1.30 p.m.
		Thursday	.. 10.0 a.m.
		Saturday	.. 9.30 a.m.

New cases must attend at least one hour before the
Clinic closes

* These Clinics are provided by the Family Planning Association

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

0-15 YEARS OF AGE					
Number on roll	..	..	..	..	4,346
Number immunised	..	..	..	..	4,150
Percentage	..	..	..	..	95
0-5 YEARS OF AGE					
Number on roll	..	..	..	..	1,000
Number immunised	..	..	..	..	894
Percentage	..	..	..	..	89

The table below shows the immunisation figures for every school in the district:—

	On Roll	Immunised	Percentage
SCHOOLS: PRIMARY AND COUNTY SECONDARY			
Cuckfield Primary	277	276	99
Haywards Heath County Primary	386	384	99
Haywards Heath County Secondary	501	496	99
St. Wilfrid's Primary	363	361	99
Lindfield Primary	318	311	98
	1,845	1,828	99
NOT YET AT SCHOOL, or at school outside our area	264	257	97
SCHOOLS, Private	1,247	1,171	94
	3,356	3,256	97

During the year:—

219 children were immunised
310 children were Schick tested
290 children had a reinforcing injection

VACCINATION

One hundred and fifty-two children were vaccinated under the age of one year—a percentage of 91.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE IN AGE GROUPS

Disease	Total Cases Notified	Under 1 year	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever ..	4	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Erysipelas ..	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Pneumonia ..	12	1	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	4	3	1	3
Puerperal Pyrexia ..	16	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12	4	-	-	-	-
Dysentery ..	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	4	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorium ..	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough ..	67	7	3	3	14	9	30	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals ..	108	9	3	4	14	10	35	-	-	13	6	11	3	2	3

TUBERCULOSIS—NEW CASES AND MORTALITY, 1954

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0 - 1 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 5 ..	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15 ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25 ..	2	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35 ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45 ..	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55 ..	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
55 - 65 ..	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and over ..	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Totals ..	7	5	1	-	2	1	-	-

COMPARATIVE TUBERCULOSIS STATISTICS, 1943-1954

Year	New Cases						Deaths						Number on Register at end of Year					
	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1943	10	10	20	2	2	4	1	2	3	-	-	-	32	33	65	12	18	30
1944	7	3	10	1	1	2	3	2	5	-	-	-	38	35	73	13	18	31
1945	7	3	10	1	3	4	4	1	5	-	-	-	38	35	73	13	19	32
1946	11	2	13	2	4	6	5	2	7	-	-	-	39	31	70	15	22	37
1947	4	2	6	1	1	2	2	-	2	-	-	-	37	28	65	13	21	34
1948	5	1	6	1	-	1	2	1	3	-	-	-	38	28	66	13	19	32
1949	8	6	14	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	41	33	74	12	19	31
1950	8	11	19	6	4	10	3	-	3	-	-	-	35	41	76	16	22	38
1951	14	10	24	-	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	46	49	95	16	24	40
1952	26	4	30	-	-	-	2	-	2	-	-	-	71	49	120	15	21	36
1953	12	4	16	1	-	1	1	1	2	-	-	-	81	53	134	15	20	35
1954	7	5	12	1	-	1	2	1	3	-	-	-	78	42	120	10	11	21

TABLE SHOWING VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEARS 1940-1954

Year	Esti- mated Popula- tion	Number of Births						Birth Rate	Number of Deaths						Death Rate	Infants' Deaths			Infant Death Rate	Natural Increase of Births over Deaths
		Legitimate			Illegitimate				M	F	Total	M	F	Total		M	F	Total		
		M	F	Total	M	F	Total													
1940	16,120	80	68	148	4	2	6	9.55	91	101	192	11.91	5	2	7	43.5	-38			
1941	16,280	85	88	173	6	5	11	11.30	92	96	186	11.55	6	2	8	40.4	-2			
1942	15,350	111	101	212	12	4	16	14.85	89	125	214	13.94	2	5	7	30.7	14			
1943	14,620	115	107	222	12	14	26	16.96	71	117	188	12.86	3	3	6	24.19	60			
1944	14,500	122	119	241	13	16	29	18.62	80	115	195	13.45	7	2	9	33.33	75			
1945	14,260	91	99	190	9	15	24	15.00	83	92	175	12.27	3	2	5	23.36	39			
1946	14,820	113	116	229	9	8	17	16.60	93	102	195	13.16	3	3	6	24.39	51			
1947	15,130	133	134	267	5	6	11	18.37	78	113	191	12.62	4	5	9	32.37	87			
1948	16,290	109	96	205	8	11	19	13.75	68	100	168	10.31	3	1	4	17.86	56			
1949	16,370	114	99	213	6	8	14	13.87	91	109	200	12.22	3	3	6	26.43	27			
1950	16,776	101	82	183	9	10	19	12.04	93	114	207	12.34	3	2	5	24.75	-5			
1951	16,830	103	89	192	3	6	9	11.94	80	144	224	13.31	2	3	5	24.87	-23			
1952	16,940	93	99	192	4	8	12	12.04	88	106	194	11.45	-	1	1	4.90	10			
1953	17,010	95	96	191	6	5	11	11.88	101	173	274	16.11	4	1	5	24.75	-72			
1954	16,980	74	87	161	3	3	6	9.84	114	168	282	16.60	3	2	5	29.94	-115			

THE MID-SUSSEX ISOLATION HOSPITAL

I am indebted to the Matron, Miss J. M. Reid, for the following particulars of cases admitted during the year:—

Disease	Cuckfield Rural District	Cuckfield Urban District	Burgess Hill Urban District	East Grinstead Urban District	Uckfield Rural District	Other Districts	Total
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	1	3	—	4
Observation Poliomyelitis ..	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever	7	2	—	4	—	2	15
Measles and Pneumonia	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Observation Dysentery	—	1	—	—	—	1	2
Gastro-enteritis	1	—	—	1	—	—	2
Chickenpox	1	—	—	—	—	4	5
Chickenpox and Shingles	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Shingles	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Erysipelas and Cellulitis	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Cellulitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Mumps	1	—	2	—	—	—	3
Mumps and Orchitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Tonsillitis	—	2	—	—	—	—	2
Laryngitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Sinusitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Sinusitis and Drug Rash	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Pneumonia	2	—	—	1	—	—	3
Impetigo	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
Migraine	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
Tuberculosis	1	1	1	—	—	19	22
Totals	21	6	4	9	6	28	74

The Cubicle Block allowed twenty-two different diseases, observation cases or diseases with complications to be dealt with.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Mr. R. Staynes, Senior Sanitary Inspector, has furnished the following report on the sanitary supervision of the district:—

Below is a list of inspections made during the year—the number of inspections is no guide to the amount of work done nor to the efficiency with which it is done.

*Slaughterhouses	..	..	..	..	..	817
Foodshops	..	..	..	..	..	1,059
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	70
Dairies ..	..	..	..	..	..	63
Milk Premises ..	..	..	..	..	..	50
Cowsheds	..	..	..	..	..	18
Ice Cream Premises	..	..	..	..	..	81
Restaurant Kitchens	..	..	..	..	..	153
Primary Public Health Acts	..	..	..	..	..	118
Primary Housing Act ..	..	..	..	..	..	94
Re-Inspections..	..	..	..	..	..	746
Housing (Improvement Grants)	..	..	..	..	..	24
Primary Shops Act	..	..	..	..	..	5
Re-Inspections..	..	..	..	..	..	49
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	112
Schools ..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Public Conveniences	..	..	..	..	..	54
Caravans	..	..	..	..	..	15
†Rats and Mice..	..	..	..	..	..	2,233
Refuse Tips	..	..	..	..	..	12
Cattle Market ..	..	..	..	..	..	10
Infectious Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	54
Food Poisoning	..	..	..	..	..	6
Swimming Pools	..	..	..	..	..	8
Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act	..	..	..	..	..	54
Miscellaneous ..	..	..	..	..	..	85
						<hr/> 5,993

* This figure includes sixty-five visits made by Sanitary Inspectors of the adjoining Rural District.

† This figure includes 2,029 visits made by the Council's Rodent Operative.

COMPLAINTS

Three hundred and seventy-four complaints were received and dealt with as under:—

Rats and Mice..	..	..	..	..	..	181
Nuisances from Drains	..	..	..	..	..	10
Offensive Smells	..	..	..	..	..	10
Defective Housing Conditions	..	..	..	..	..	7
Overcrowding ..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Accumulation of Refuse	..	..	..	..	..	1
Insect Pests (124 wasps, 2 ants, 1 fleas, 4 beetles, 11 flies, 1 cockroaches, 1 woodlice)	..	..	..	..	..	144
Milk ..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Miscellaneous ..	..	..	..	..	..	18
						<hr/> 374

STATUTORY NOTICES

Section 75, Public Health Act, 1936

Served	1
Complied with by Owner	1

Section 93, Public Health Act, 1936

Served	1
Complied with by Owner	1

PRELIMINARY NOTICES

	<i>Served</i>	<i>Complied with</i>	<i>Complied with but served in previous years</i>
Public Health Act ..	81	69	12
Housing Act	14	2	13
Food and Drugs Act ..	62	55	2
Factory Act	12	10	1
Shops Act	1	—	—
Public Health (Meat) Regulations	1	1	—
Milk and Dairies	3	3	—
Heating Appliances (Fireguards) Act ..	13	12	—
Pests Act	3	3	—
	<hr/> 190	<hr/> 155	<hr/> 28
Voluntary Works supervised.. ..			18

INFESTATIONS

The public seek the assistance of the Health Department in dealing with infestations of all kinds more and more. Wasps are dealt with by either liquid insecticide or Cymag and the nests removed. A charge to cover the cost of this work is made.

Ants	1
Beetles	2
Fleas	1
Flies	9
Wasps	115
Woodlice	1
	<hr/> 129

HOUSING

Since the war house-to-house inspections have been concentrated on the older artisan-type dwellings in the Lindfield parish—at the same time new houses built have been inspected and recorded for statistical purposes. The number of houses found to be satisfactory is very much higher than was the case before the war and is due to the inspection of new houses and the fact that more and more of the smaller-type houses are becoming owner occupied. Of the 119 unfit houses repairable at reasonable cost inspected since the war, 101 have been made fit and work has commenced at 8 others.

Of the 19 houses represented as unfit and not repairable at reasonable cost 3 have been demolished, 4 are vacant, 2 have had undertaking cancelled on being made fit, and 10 are still occupied.

Reviewing the progress made to date in dealing with individual unfit houses not repairable at reasonable cost inspected before the war, there were 77 such houses, of them, 24 have been demolished, 36 have been made fit by repair or conversion, 5 are vacant, 7 have been represented under Section 11 but are still occupied and 5 are awaiting action.

Improvement Grants

During 1954 10 applications for Improvement Grants were received, 4 being refused, 2 being withdrawn, 2 being approved in principle, 1 granted and 1 being received too late for consideration during 1954. All were in respect of owner occupied houses.

1. Inspections of Dwelling Houses during the year:—

(1) (a)	Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	.. ..	166
(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	.. ..	960
(2) (a)	Number of Dwelling Houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	.. ..	96
(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose	.. ..	96
(3)	Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.. ..	6
(4)	Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	.. .. . . . . .	45

2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:—

Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	84
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:—

A. Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	1
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(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:—							
(a)	By Owners	..	..	..	..	..	1
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses acquired and subsequently rendered fit by the Local Authority..							
		..	..	..	..	..	Nil
B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—							
(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ..							
		..	..	..	..	..	2
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:—							
(a)	By Owners	..	..	..	..	..	2
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
C. Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:—							
(1) Number of Representations, etc., made in respect of Dwelling Houses unfit for habitation ..							
		..	..	..	..	..	8
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ..							
		..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ..							
		..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(4) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which undertakings were accepted from owners, Section 11 (3):							
(a)	To render the house fit for human habitation	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(b)	As to usage other than for human habitation	..	..	..	..	..	8
D. Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936							
(1) Number of separate Tenements or Underground Rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ..							
		..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(2) Number of separate Tenements or Underground Rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ..							
		..	..	..	..	..	Nil
4. Number of New Houses Erected during the year 1954:—							
(1) State aided:							
(a)	By Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	22
(b)	By Public Utility	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
(2) Without State aid ..							
		..	..	..	..	..	98
Total						..	128
5. Housing Conditions:—							
(1) Total number of Houses in the District ..							
		..	..	..	..	..	4,932

CARAVANS

Three licences to erect and station movable dwellings (trailer-type caravans) within the Urban District were granted during the year.

FACTORIES

1. INSPECTIONS FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS AS TO HEALTH

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
(i) Factories in which sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ..	22	25	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ..	64	65	—	—
(iii) Other premises in which section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Totals ..	86	90	—	—

2. CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	No. of cases in which defects were found				No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of cleanliness (S.1) ..	4	4	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	2	3	—	1	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) ..	5	3	—	—	—
Totals ..	11	10	—	1	—

OUTWORK

(Sections 110 and 111)

Nature of Work	No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists	No. of instances work in unwholesome premises	Notices served	Prosecutions
Wearing apparel—						
{ Making, etc. ..	3	—	—	—	—	—
{ Cleaning and washing ..	—	—	—	—	—	—

Sections 15-44—Nil.

MEANS OF ESCAPE IN CASE OF FIRE

Number of certificates in force 21

THE RAG, FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

One upholsterer is registered under the above Act. All upholsterers' premises were visited during the year and were found to be satisfactorily maintained.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Meat Inspection

Slaughtering by private enterprise was recommenced on a wholesale basis in this district on 2nd July, 1954, the premises previously used as a Government Selected Slaughterhouse being rented for the purpose. So far it appears that more slaughtering is now being done than when the Ministry of Food operated the slaughterhouse.

The above wholesale slaughterhouse and the slaughterhouse attached to a large institution were approved as Deadweight Certification Centres for Pigs and by the end of the year 315 pigs had been graded and the sum of £15 ls. paid to the Council for this work.

During the year 8,238 animals were slaughtered in the Urban District, the majority being inspected ante-mortem and all inspected post-mortem. There were 817 visits to the slaughterhouses and 1,769 condemnations involving 24,456lb. of meat and offals.

Diseased condemned meat and offals are disposed of to firms who guarantee that they will be sterilised and used for purposes other than human food, except in those cases where it is considered that it should be destroyed.

Animals Slaughtered

Bulls	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Bullocks	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	540
Cows	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	251
Heifers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	374
Calves	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	581
Sheep	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2,979
Pigs	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3,079
Sows and Boars	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	426
								<hr/> 8,238 <hr/>

Carcases of Animals Inspected and Condemned

	Cattle ex. Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	922	251	581	2,979	3,505
Number inspected	922	251	581	2,979	3,505
All Diseases except Tuberculosis: Whole carcasses condemned	—	—	1	5	12
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	227	91	1	676	575
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	24.62	36.25	0.34	22.86	16.75
Tuberculosis only: Whole carcasses condemned	4	8	1	—	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	45	66	—	—	53
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	5.31	29.48	0.17	—	1.63

The above table shows that of 251 cows slaughtered, 74 were affected with tuberculosis in some degree, whilst 165 were in some way diseased. The percentage of cows killed affected with tuberculosis (29.48) is lower than the average for the last 10 years (37 per cent.).

Of eight bulls slaughtered, one was affected with tuberculosis in some degree.

Of all cattle killed (1,173) 123 were affected with tuberculosis in some degree.

Two cases of cysticercus bovis were found during the year.

Slaughter of Animals Act

Three licensed slaughtermen had their licences renewed during the year.

Food Premises

The following tables show the number of food premises in the district, the number of premises registered under Section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949, and the number of inspections of such premises. I would point out that an inspection is counted once only for the purpose for which it is chiefly made, although the inspection will be comprehensive where the premises are subject to supervision for several purposes.

LIST OF FOOD PREMISES

Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Basement Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Butchers	..	..	..	..	..	..	15
Canteens	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Confectioners	..	..	..	..	..	..	20
Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Fishmongers	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Fish Hawkers	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Grocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	59
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Outside Food Kiosks	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Public Houses	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Hotels and Restaurant Kitchens	..	..	..	..	..	..	23

FOOD PREMISES, BY TYPE, REGISTERED UNDER SECTION 14 FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

Registered for Sale of Ice Cream

Grocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	30
Confectioners	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Cafes	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
Greengrocers	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Kiosks	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Fishmongers	1
							63

Registered for Preparation of Sausages

Butchers	15	15
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Registered for the Preservation of Food (by cooking)

Grocers	4	
Bakehouses	3	
Fried Fish Shops	2	9

PREMISES REGISTERED UNDER THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS, 1949

Dairies	4
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INSPECTIONS OF REGISTERED FOOD PREMISES**Registered for Sale of Ice Cream**

	<i>Inspections</i>
Grocers	208
Confectioners	69
Cafes	64
Greengrocers	72
Kiosks	12
Schools	3
Fishmongers	20

Registered for Preparation of Sausages

Butchers	209
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Registered for the Preservation of Food (by cooking)

Grocers	27
Bakehouses	54
Fried Fish Shops	18

Dairies	63
-----------------	----

FOOD BYELAWS

Generally the Byelaws with respect to the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the Open Air are well observed in this area, more and more food being displayed in refrigerated cabinets or behind glass-fronted counters, etc.

Below is a list of improvements effected at the various types of food premises during 1954:—

Greengrocers

Food stored off the ground	3
Store redecorated	1
Shop redecorated and refitted	1

Grocers

Bacon machines cleaned	..	..	..	..	3
Food stored off the ground	..	..	..	..	3
Food covered	..	..	..	..	3
Hot water supply provided	..	..	..	..	2
Store cleansed	..	..	..	..	3
Premises redecorated	..	..	..	..	2
Premises cleansed	..	..	..	..	1
New w.c. pan provided	..	..	..	..	1
Refrigerated cabinets provided	..	..	..	..	2

Butchers

Meat covered	..	..	..	..	..	1
Bin provided for scraps	..	..	..	..	..	1
Hot water and washing facilities provided	..	..	..	..	..	1
Window display cabinet installed	..	..	..	..	..	1
Making up room redecorated	..	..	..	..	..	1

Cafes

Kitchens redecorated	..	..	..	..	..	2
Kitchens cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	3
Accumulation cleared	..	..	..	..	..	1
Double sinks provided, hood fixed over cooker and hand basin provided in kitchen for personal use	..	..	..	..	..	1
Refrigerators installed	..	..	..	..	..	2

Bakehouses

Surround to sink repaired	..	..	..	..	..	1
Premises cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	3

Baker's Shop

Sliding glass screens provided	1
--------------------------------	----	----	----	----	----	---

Fishmongers

Food covered	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Premises cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

Condemnations of Other Foods

During the year there were 99 condemnations of other food involving:—

219 tins fruit	703½ lbs. meat	20 stone fish
29 packets cereals	46 tins meat	5 tins fish
70 tins milk	17 jars meat	28 shellfish
5 tins soup	52 lbs. sausages	113 tins vegetables
1 tin frozen eggs	65 tins preserves	21 packets cheese
60 lbs. prunes	4 tins cream	3 boxes cheese
1 tin spaghetti and cheese	23 lbs. flour	1 jar paste
		1 tinned pudding

MILK SUPPLY

The following registrations were operative during 1954:—

Dairies	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Distributors	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Dealers licensed to sell T.T. milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Dealers licensed to sell Pasteurised milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
Dealers licensed to sell Sterilised milk	..	..	..	..	..	..	2

Milk is produced at nine farms in the district, from two of which milk is sold by retail. The nine farms comprise seven tuberculin tested, one accredited and one ordinary milk producers.

SAMPLING

One hundred and seventy-six samples of milk were submitted to the methylene blue test, ninety-four of them being subjected to the phosphatase test also. Nine failed the methylene blue test and three the phosphatase test.

Seventy-four samples of milk were submitted for biological test, all being free from Tubercle Bacilli.

Tuberculin Tested Milk

Fifty-seven samples of tuberculin tested milk were taken by retail—two failing the methylene blue test.

Accredited Milk

Nine samples of accredited milk were taken by retail—one failing the methylene blue test.

Ordinary Milk

Sixteen samples of ordinary milk were obtained by retail—four failing the methylene blue test.

Pasteurised Milk

Fifty-three samples of Pasteurised milk were obtained—one failed the methylene blue test and two the phosphatase test.

Tuberculin Tested Pasteurised Milk

Forty-one samples of tuberculin tested pasteurised milk were obtained—one failed the methylene blue test and one the phosphatase test.

ICE-CREAM

There are no premises registered for the manufacture of ice-cream in this district. Sixty-three premises are registered for the sale of ice-cream, fifty-three being restricted to the sale of wrapped ice-cream.

During 1954 sixty-six samples of ice-cream were submitted to bacteriological examination, with the following results:—

GRADES			
I	II	III	IV
35	26	4	1

Below is a table showing the results of bacteriological examination of ice-cream samples for the six years 1949-1954.

Month	No. of Samples 1949-54	Methylene Blue Test							Grade			
		1½ hrs.	2 hrs.	2½ hrs.	3 hrs.	3½ hrs.	4 hrs.	4½ hrs.	I	II	III	IV
January	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	9	—	—	—
February	14	—	—	—	1	—	4	9	9	5	—	—
March	27	2	—	—	—	2	4	19	20	5	2	—
April	40	2	—	3	4	3	5	23	23	15	2	—
May	57	2	2	1	1	11	4	36	35	17	4	1
June	60	2	3	2	12	3	7	31	32	23	4	1
July	57	3	4	1	5	—	5	39	39	11	7	—
August	50	2	2	2	9	2	7	26	26	20	4	—
September	53	3	7	3	2	6	9	23	23	20	10	—
October	48	2	1	8	4	1	7	25	26	15	7	—
November	20	—	—	—	—	1	2	17	17	3	—	—
December	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	435	18	19	20	38	29	54	257	259	134	40	2

DESTRUCTION OF RATS AND MICE

There were 181 complaints regarding infestations by rats or mice during 1954, and these led to the inspection of 248 premises, of which 172 were found to be infested. The Council employ a rat operative trained under the Ministry's Scheme, and this man worked at 172 premises. In addition a further 4,110 premises in the district were subjected to a routine survey. A total of 526 dead rats was found during the year.

During August a re-test of the Council's sewers was made and further treatment was carried out at the infested manholes in September.

PUBLIC SANITARY CONVENIENCES

The maintenance of certain public house conveniences at the Council's expense in return for their availability to the public throughout the day, was continued.

THE HEATING APPLIANCES (FIREGUARDS) ACT, 1952

During 1954 some 54 visits were made to 23 premises under the above Act. The following table shows the number of appliances tested and the results of the tests:—

Appliances Inspected	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
Electric ..	194	26	220
Gas ..	18	30	48
Oil ..	19	7	26
Total ..	231	63	294

All retailers agreed to withdraw from sale the fires with unsatisfactory guards, and eventually after some negotiations with manufacturers all appliances were fitted with satisfactory guards.